

1935

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Rules and Regulations
PERTAINING TO
Gas Service Utilities

ADOPTED APRIL 9, 1914
AMENDED DECEMBER 13, 1920

PREPARED BY
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HARRISBURG, PA.

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DOCUMENTS SECTION

NOTE

Nothing contained in these Rules shall be construed as relieving any Utility from the performance of any of its legal duties to the public.

By Order of

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
of the
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

PART I.

GENERAL.

Definition:

The term "utility" as used in these rules includes all public service companies, corporations and persons, as defined in The Public Service Company Law, engaged in the production, sale or distribution of gas within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

I. Statutory:

"It shall be the duty of every public service company to furnish and maintain such service, including facilities, as shall in all respects be just, reasonably adequate, and practically sufficient for the accommodation and safety of its patrons, employees, and the public, and in conformity with such reasonable regulations or orders as may be made by the Commission."

II. Pressure Variation:

Each utility furnishing manufactured gas shall maintain at the consumer's meter outlet a gas pressure of not less than one and one-half inches nor more than eight inches of water pressure; and within said limits the daily variation of pressure at the outlet of any one meter on the system shall never be greater than one hundred (100%) per cent. of the minimum pressure. Each utility furnishing natural gas shall maintain at the consumer's meter outlet a gas pressure of not less than one and one-half inches, nor more than fourteen inches of water pressure, except when greater pressure is specifically provided in the contract between the utility and the consumer, provided there shall be no unfair and unreasonable discrimination or preference; and within the said limits the daily variation of pressure at the outlet of any one meter on the system shall never exceed four inches of water pressure above or below the normal pressure maintained at such point of delivery, unless it can be shown to the Commission that such greater variation is due to extraordinary demand in extreme weather.

Provided, that variations in pressure caused by operation of consumer's apparatus in violation of contract or the rules of the utility, or by causes entirely beyond the control of the utility, shall not be considered a violation of this rule.

III. Required Heating Value: (Amended December 13, 1920.)

Each utility furnishing manufactured gas service must supply gas which when tested within a one mile radius from the point of manufacture, shall give a monthly average of not less than 520 British thermal units total heating value per cubic foot, as referred to standard condition of temperature and pressure. The minimum heating value of manufactured gas shall never fall below 500 British thermal units. Manufactured gas delivered to the mains under pressures above 5 pounds per square inch shall be tested for heating value before compression.

IV. Sulphur Requirements:

In no case shall manufactured gas contain more than 30 grains of total sulphur per 100 cubic feet.

V. Service Interruptions:

Each utility shall keep a record of all interruptions to service on the entire system or any portion thereof belonging to the utility, which record shall contain the time, extent and duration of the interruption, and shall be kept as specified in Rule IX.

VI. Complaint Records:

Each utility shall keep a record of all written complaints received from its consumers in regard to service, which record shall show the name and address of the complainant, the date and nature of the complaint, the action taken, and the date of final disposition of the matter. This record shall be kept as specified in Rule IX.

VII. Inspection of Equipment:

Each utility shall inspect its equipment and facilities, including the necessary tests for water and leaks in its lines, in accordance with good practice, and in a manner satisfactory to the Commission, and shall maintain as specified in Rule IX, a complete record of all such inspections and tests, and shall file with the Commission a statement of the condition of its equipment and facilities, and such copies of its reports of inspections, when and in such form as the Commission may require.

VIII. Accidents:

Each utility shall keep a record of and shall furnish to the Investigator of Accidents for the Commission, in accordance with the rules of the Commission, reports of any and all accidents happening in or about or in connection with the operation of its property, facilities or service, wherein any person shall have been killed or injured, or property damaged or destroyed, with a full statement as far as possible

of the causes of such accidents, and the precautions, if any, taken as prevention against future accidents of similar character.

IX. Records and Reports:

All records required by these Rules shall be kept within the State at an office or offices of the utility located in the territory served by it, and shall be open for examination by the Commission or its representative. Each utility shall notify the Commission of the office or offices at which the various classes of records are kept and shall file with the Commission, such reports as the Commission may from time to time require.

PART II.

METERS, CALORIMETERS, ETC.

X. Allowable Error:

No gas meter shall be placed in service nor allowed to remain in service, which shows in comparison with a standard gas prover, an error greater than two (2%) per cent. when gas at the standard test rate of flow is passing through it.

XI. Periodic Tests:

No utility furnishing metered gas service shall allow a gas meter to remain in service for a period longer than five years without checking it for accuracy, or readjusting it if found to be incorrect beyond the limits established by Rule X. Proportional meters shall be tested once every five years and readjusted if necessary, and cleaned by a competent man at least once each three months.

XII. Meter Test Records:

Whenever a gas service meter is tested, the original test record shall be kept, indicating the information necessary for identifying the meter, the reason for making the test, the reading of the meter before being disturbed, and the accuracy of the meter, together with all the data taken at the time of the test. This record must be sufficiently complete to permit the convenient checking of the methods employed, and the calculations made. A record shall also be kept, preferably numerically arranged, indicating date of meter purchase, when purchased after July 1, 1914, name of manufacturer, its size, its identification, its various places of installation, with dates of installation and removal, and the dates and general results of all tests. These records shall be kept as specified in Rule IX.

XIII. Installation of Meters:

Each gas service meter installed after July 1, 1914, shall have been tested for accuracy by the utility within one year previous to its installation. It shall also be inspected by the utility for proper connections, mechanical conditions, and suitability of location within sixty (60) days after installation.

XIV. Facilities for Testing:

Each utility shall provide and maintain suitable and adequate facilities for testing its gas service meters, in each case to be satisfactory to and approved by the Commission. Each utility shall provide a suitable meter prover, of not less than five (5) cubic feet capacity, equipped with suitable thermometers and other necessary accessories, and shall

maintain the same in proper adjustment to register the condition of the meters within one-half of one per cent. The accuracy of all provers will be established from time to time by a representative of the Commission at a place to be designated by it. After January 1, 1915, tests made with an uncertified prover will not be deemed authoritative.

XV. Pressure Surveys:

Each utility shall provide itself with one or more graphic recording pressure gauges, and shall make frequent measurements of the gas pressure and pressure variation throughout its system. Charts from these gauges showing the pressure variations shall be kept for at least two years as specified in Rule IX. The accuracy of all pressure gauges will be established from time to time by a representative of the Commission at a place to be designated by it. After January 1, 1915, tests made with an uncertified pressure gauge will not be deemed authoritative.

XVI. Calorimeter Tests:

Each utility whose gas output exceeds twenty million cubic feet per year shall equip itself with a complete standard calorimeter outfit approved by the Commission, by which it shall determine the heat value of manufactured gas at least three days each week, and of natural gas at least three times per year. A complete record of all these tests shall be kept as specified in Rule IX. The accuracy of all calorimeters will be established from time to time by a representative of the Commission at a place to be designated by it. After January 1, 1915, tests made with an uncertified calorimeter will not be deemed authoritative.

XVII. Meters in Service without Test Records:

All gas meters in service on and after July 1, 1914, for which there is no record test within five years, must be tested as soon thereafter as circumstances will permit, and in all cases within three years from July 1, 1914.

XVIII. Request Tests:

Each utility shall upon the written request of a consumer, and if he so desires, in his presence or that of his authorized representative, make a test of the accuracy of his meter. When a consumer desires, either personally or through a representative, to witness the testing of a meter, he may require the meter to be sealed in his presence before removal, which seal shall not be broken until the test is made in his presence. If the meter so tested shall be found to be accurate within the limits specified in Rule X, a fee determined from the schedule indicated below, shall be paid to the utility by the consumer requiring such test; but if not so found, then the cost thereof shall be borne

by the utility furnishing the service. When making such request, the consumer shall agree to the basis of payment herein specified. A report of such test shall be made to the consumer, and a complete record of such test shall be kept on file as specified in Rule IX.

The amount of the fee to be charged by the utility for testing meters upon written complaint of consumers, shall be determined by the manufacturers' designated rating, as follows:

Positive Meters.

Meters of 10-Lt. capacity or under, or having a rated capacity of 200 cubic feet per hour or under,	\$2.00
Meters of over 10-Lt. capacity and not exceeding 30-Lt. capacity, or having a rated capacity exceeding 200 cubic feet per hour, and not exceeding 600 cubic feet per hour,	4.00
Meters of over 30-Lt. capacity and not exceeding 80-Lt. capacity, or having a rated capacity exceeding 600 cubic feet per hour, and not exceeding 1,500 cubic feet per hour,	6.00
Meters of over 80-Lt. capacity, or having a rated capacity exceeding 1,500 cubic feet per hour,	10.00

Proportional Meters.

All Proportional Meters not exceeding 15,000 cubic feet per hour rated capacity,	15.00
All Proportional Meters of over 15,000 cubic feet and not exceeding 30,000 cubic feet per hour rated capacity,	20.00
All Proportional Meters of over 30,000 cubic feet and not exceeding 50,000 cubic feet per hour rated capacity,	30.00
All Proportional Meters of over 50,000 cubic feet and not exceeding 100,000 cubic feet per hour rated capacity,	40.00
All Proportional Meters of over 100,000 cubic feet per hour rated capacity,	50.00

Rates for testing meters not included in the above classification, or which are so located that the cost is out of proportion to the fee specified, will be furnished by the Commission upon receipt of complete specifications.

XIX. Refunds:

If a meter be found to be fast at any test by more than two (2%) per cent., an allowance or refund shall be made to the consumer by the utility, equal to all the excess charged the consumer, figured back from the date of test through the entire period of the current bill, unless it can be shown that the error is due to an accident or other cause the exact date of which can be determined, in which case it shall be figured back to such time.